

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 5,197,819 to Hughes (“Hughes”). Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

I. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are Patentable over Hughes

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hughes. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to the Examiner’s comment that “Applicant is no longer claiming the mounting structure in combination with a sports pole, and therefore the claim is not allowable” (Office Action at page 3.), claim 1 has been amended to positively recite “a sports pole” in combination with a mounting structure. This amendment does not present a new issue to the Examiner as the claim previously recited a sports pole in conjunction with a mounting structure for mounting a sports pole.

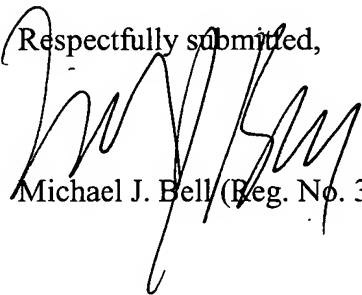
Furthermore, claim 1 includes the subject matter of original claim 6, which the Examiner previously indicated as being allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. By virtue of their dependency on claim 1, claims 2, 4 and 7-9 are also allowable for at least these reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and issue a Notice of Allowability for claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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